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ADDITIONS TO KANSAS MAMMALIA.

By M. V. B. Knox, of Baldwin City.

2a. Lynx rufus, var. maculatus, Horsfield and Vigors. Texas Wild Cat. Less frequent than L. rufus.

39. ———. Mouse, taken near Baldwin; not yet identified.

62. Sorex ———. Taken at Coal Creek, 1873, by C. K. Jones.

63. Hesperomys Nuttalli, Harlan. Red Mouse. In Col. Goss' museum, Neosho Falls. Taken at Colony, March 7, 1873, by J. J. Fairbanks.

64. Arvicola pinetorum, LeC. Taken near Baldwin City, 1876.

65. Perognathus flavus, Baird. Taken at Nickerson, Reno county, May, 1876.

66. Blarina talpoides, Gapper. Taken at Baldwin City, by Geo. Cheney, April 6, 1877.

THE INFLUENCE OF FOOD-SELECTION UPON THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMAL LIFE.

By Dr. A. H. Thompson, Topeka, Kansas.

The influence that food-selection exercises in directing the course of the development of animal life, is a factor of the principle of evolution that has scarcely received the attention at the hands of naturalists and physiologists that its importance deserves. Its potency is manifested in such a marked manner as to be, under some circumstances, a prime factor in the determination of great changes in the phenomena of animal life, even of catastrophes, and yet it has been relegated by most philosophic biologists, when recognized at all, to a second or third place in the order of forces. Many are the theories that have been woven and elaborated in regard to the origin and evolution of life, in the name of the developmental principle, and many are the factors that go to make up the argument in favor of each one. But in the table of forces acknowledged, direct, indirect and accidental, food-selection rarely finds a place under any name, and is still more rarely reckoned as more than an accidental influence.

By the term food-selection we designate that power which each particular substance used as food exercises in causing certain species of animals to employ it for sustenance; i. e., it directs the choice of animals towards itself for sufficient reasons to induce them to use it for food, such as convenience, adaptability, etc. If a given species in a certain district be surrounded by a constant supply of its proper food, it is drawn towards it, employs it, and lives;—the food-environment favors life. But it may not be thus permanent and favorable to the perpetuation of a certain stage in the life of a species. In fact, it rarely is so, but may be changeful and inconstant. In this case, the food imposes upon the animal organization employing it, the necessity of ever changing in conformity to the new conditions ever being presented. The power of food to induce change in the animal organism, and maintain or alter it at its own caprices, is the selection which dictates change.